MANITOBA

FIREARM INCIDENTS

REPORT

Hunting and Non-Hunting
2003

Hunter and Firearm
Safety Program

Manitoba
Conservation
and
Manitoba
Wildlife Federation

ACKNOWLEGEMENTS

Manitoba Conservation acknowledges the assistance provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces who provided information for this Firearm Incidents Report. It is through these organizations that detailed information on each firearm incident was obtained.

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces requiring additional incident report forms please write to the Hunter and Firearm Safety Program, 200 Saulteaux Crescent, Winnipeg Manitoba R3J 3W3 or phone 945-6644. Questions regarding the administration and delivery of the Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety Program should be directed to:

The Manitoba Wildlife Federation
70 Stevenson Road
Winnipeg MB R3H 0W7
633- Hunt (4868) or
1-877-633-Hunt

SUMMARY

During 2003, there were four firearm-related incidents. In 2001, there were six and in 2002, there were two. Two of the incidents in 2003 were self-inflicted, resulting in one fatality. None of the 2003 incidents involved a shooter under 18 years of age, (however, one of the shooters age is unknown) compared to none in 2002 and one in 2001.

Three of the reported incidents occurred during a licenced hunting season, resulting in one fatality. (The forth incident occurred when a licenced season was on; however, it is unknown if the shooter was hunting.)

Of the four reported incidents, two occurred at a distance of less than ten yards, one occurred at a distance of 50-100 yards, and one occurred at a distance greater than 100 yards. One of the four reported incidents (non-fatal) involved a graduate of a Hunter Safety Program. (It is unknown if two of the shooters had graduated from a Hunter Safety Program)

2059 students completed the Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety course in 2003, while 2191 completed the course in 2002. 140,311 students have now graduated from the program since it began in 1964. Of the total, 161 have later become involved in a firearm incident, which represents .11%. In 2003, 14 new instructors were certified, bringing the total number of volunteers to approximately 242 active instructors.

In 1998 Manitoba Conservation entered into an agreement with the Manitoba Wildlife Federation (MWF). The agreement transfers the administration and delivery of the Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety Training Program to the MWF.

CAUSE OF INCIDENTS

	2002	2003
Victim out of sight of shooter	1	2
Victim moved into line of fire	0	0
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	0	0
Victim mistaken for game	1*	0
Shooter stumbled and fell	0	0
Using firearm as a club	0	0
Trigger caught on bush or other object	0	0
Loaded firearm in vehicle	0	1*
Firearm fell from insecure rest	0	0
Horseplay" and/or "didn't know it was loaded"	0	0
Crossing fence or other obstacle with loaded firearm	0	0
Loading	0	0
Unloading	0	0
Defective firearm	0	0
Cleaning firearm	0	0
Loaded firearm in the home	0	0
Accidental discharge	0	1
Ricochet	0	0
Other	0	0
* Indicates fatal incident		
Total	**2**	**4**

Average firearm incidents per year in 5-year increments since Hunter Safety Program commenced.

1964-1968	44.2
1969-1973	56.0
1974-1978	53.6
1979-1983	42.8
1984-1988	26.4
1989-1993	20.4
1994-1998	9.0
1999-2003	6.0

SYNOPSIS OF 2002 AND 2003 FIREARM INCIDENTS

		2002	2003
A.	**Total Number of Incidents**	**2**	**4**
	Fatal	1	1
	Non-fatal	1	3
B.	**1) Hunting Legally During Regular Season**	**1**	**3**
	Fatal	1	1
	Non-fatal	0	2
	2) Treaty Indian Hunting	**1**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	1	0
	3) Hunting Small Animals, Birds, or Illegal Hunting	**0**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
	4) Non-hunting Incidents	**0**	**0**
	Fatal in the home	0	0
	Fatal in a vehicle	0	0
	Fatal outside home	0	0
	Non-fatal in the home	0	0
	Non-fatal in a vehicle	0	0
	Non-fatal outside the home	0	0
C.	**Shooter Unknown**	**1**	**1**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	1	1
D.	**Incidents Involving Shooter under 18 years of age**	**0**	**0**
	All Types of Hunting	0	0
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
	Non-hunting	0	0
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0

TYPE OF FIREARM INVOLVED

		2002	2003
A.	**.22 calibre Rim Fire Rifle**	**0**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
B.	**Center Fire Hi Power Rifle**	**1**	**1**
	Fatal	1	0
	Non-fatal	0	1
C.	**Shotgun**	**1**	**3**
	Fatal	0	1
	Non-fatal	1	2
D.	**Hand Gun**	**0**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
E.	**Pellet Gun**	**0**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
F.	**Unknown/Other Muzzle Loader**	**0**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
Total		**2**	**4**

DISTANCE OF VICTIM FROM SHOOTER

	2002	2003
0 to 10 yards	0	2
10 to 50 yards	1	0
50 to 100 yards	1	1
over 100 yards	0	1
Distance Unknown	0	0

OCCURRENCES

Time of Day	2002	2003
Midnight – 3:00 a.m.	0	0
3:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m.	0	0
6:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	0	0
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	1	1*
12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.	0	0
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	0	2
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	1*	1
9:00 p.m. – 12:00 midnight	0	0
Unknown	0	0
By Day		
Sunday	0	1
Monday	0	0
Tuesday	0	1
Wednesday	0	0
Thursday	1	0
Friday	0	1*
Saturday	1*	1
By Month		
January	0	0
February	0	0
March	0	0
April	0	0
May	1	0
June	0	0
July	0	0
August	0	0
September	1*	1*
October	0	3
November	0	0
December	0	0

* Indicates fatality

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF HUNTING LICENCES SOLD

	GAME BIRD	BIG GAME	TOTAL
1970	45,822	47,156	92,978
1975	48,687	11,606*	60,293
1980	58,091	60,505	118,596
1985	35,342	52,541	87,883
1990	34,571	60,006	94,577
1995	24,511	67,883	92,394
2000	19,584	61,318	80,902
2001	18,266	64,098	82,364
2002	17,841	63,703	81,544
2003	18,734	64,220	82,954

* Indicates closed deer season

COMPARISON OF TOTAL FIREARM INCIDENTS
LICENSED HUNTING INCIDENTS WITH TOTAL HUNTING LICENCES ISSUED

YEAR	TOTAL LICENSES ISSUED	TOTAL FIREARM INCIDENTS	LICENCED HUNTING INCIDENTS
1985	87,883	26	7
1990	94,577	22	6
1995	92,394	15	1
2000	80,902	3	1
2001	82,364	6	1
2002	81,544	2	1
2003	82,954	4	3

SUMMARY OF 2003 INCIDENTS

Proper firearm handling is the most important element of hunter safety. Careless handling of firearms can cause death or injury to hunters or their companions before they see their target or even reach the bush. Ten basic rules must be followed whenever a firearm is handled or used. The first four rules apply whether you are in a home or building (such as a gun store), in a vehicle, at a shooting range or while hunting. The ten basic rules are:

GENERAL RULES OF FIREARM SAFETY

1. **ALWAYS POINT THE MUZZLE OF A FIREARM IN THE SAFEST DIRECTION.**
2. **OPEN THE ACTION OF A FIREARM AS SOON AS YOU PICK IT UP FOR ANY REASON.**
3. **LOOK INTO THE CHAMBER AND MAGAZINE TO ENSURE THE FIREARM IS UNLOADED AFTER OPENING THE ACTION.**
4. **DO NOT PUT YOUR FINGER IN THE TRIGGER GUARD UNTIL READY TO FIRE.**
5. **BE CERTAIN THE BARREL IS FREE FROM OBSTRUCTION. THIS SHOULD BE DONE BEFORE LOADING AND PERIODICALLY DURING MOVEMENT IN THE FIELD.**
6. **CHECK FOR THE CORRECT AMMUNITION FOR THE FIREARM YOU ARE USING.**
7. **USE THE SAFETY BUT DON'T RELY ON IT.**
8. **NEVER CLIMB A TREE OR FENCE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED FIREARM.**
9. **BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND BEYOND BEFORE YOU PULL THE TRIGGER.**
10. **TREAT EVERY FIREARM AS THOUGH IT WERE LOADED.**

SUMMARY OF 2003 INCIDENTS

DATE AND TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A GRADUATE OF HUNTER SAFETY	CIRCUMSTANCES
Sept. 19th 11:30 am	S - 50 Self-Inflicted	Yes	Shotgun	0 – 10 yards.	Geese	No	Shooter was removing the loaded shotgun from his truck when it discharged into his chest.
October 5th 5:30 pm	S - Unknown V - 40	No	.303 British Lee Enfield Rifle	100 or yards	Unknown	Unknown	Victim was raking leaves in yard when struck by bullet in hip. Forensics indicates shooter was aprox. two miles from victim.
October 11th 4:15 pm	S - 39 Self-inflicted	No	Shotgun	0 – 10 yards	Geese	Yes	Victim was sitting with his shotgun between his legs when it discharged and shot his foot.
October 21st 6:30 pm	S - 48 V - 30	No	Shotgun	50 - 100 vards	Ducks	Unknown	Victim was hunting ducks in marsh – Shooter was unaware of his presence and shot at wounded duck.

S - Shooter **V - Victim**